



Cathleen Martwick
10/10/2000 02:51 PM

To: VERNETA SIMON
Subject: access 201 and 205

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



226414

Verneta:

I added one paragraph to your letter. It's underlined. Please include it in the letter that goes out. Also, please enclose with the letter copies of the 3/24 and 5/22 letters that were sent to the people we thought were owners of 201 and 205.

Thanks, Cathy



banos2_access.

SE-5J

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
WITH RETURN RECEIPT

Mr. Chris Banos and Ms. Ann Banos
2115 Schiller Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois 60691

Re: Indoor Radiation Survey of 201 and 205 East Grand Avenue

Dear Mr. and Ms. Banos:

As you may be aware, U.S. EPA is investigating the disposal of radioactive material from the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company (Lindsay Light) thorium mantle manufacturing plant at 316 E. Illinois Street in the City of Chicago. Part of this investigation includes conducting radiological surveys of certain properties in the area. U.S. EPA believes it is possible that radioactive materials from the Lindsay Light operations or demolition may have been placed onto your properties and U.S. EPA is seeking access to each property to conduct a radiological survey.

We realize that your buildings may be leased and are willing to conduct the survey at a time of day when it is convenient for your tenants. We anticipate four to six hours for the indoor radiation survey. We also plan on leaving air monitors for one week to assess the air quality inside your building. Enclosed with this letter is a form for your signature that gives U.S. EPA access to conduct an interior and exterior radiation survey at 201 and 205 East Grand and leave the appropriate air monitors for one week. Also, enclosed are copies of U.S. EPA's Lindsay Light Fact Sheets which explain the detailed history of Lindsay Light and cleanup activities conducted.

You may be aware that U.S. EPA previously attempted to gain access to your property to conduct this investigation. Your tenants informed U.S. EPA that they were the owners of the property. Thus, U.S. EPA requested their consent for access to the property. Enclosed for your information are the letters that were sent to your tenants. Subsequently, U.S. EPA discovered that you are the owner of the properties and now seeks your consent for access in order to conduct the radiation survey.

According to historical documents, from about 1905 until approximately 1932, Lindsay Light refined thorium containing ores and manufactured incandescent mantles for residential and commercial building lights at 316 E. Illinois and 161 E. Grand. The gas mantle manufacturing involved dipping gauze mantle bags into solutions containing radioactive thorium. The former manufacturing site that is bounded by Columbus, Grand, McClurg Court, and Illinois is known as the Lindsay Light II site. (It is called Lindsay Light II because the original facility and main offices were located at 161 East Grand.) Presently, Kerr-McGee Chemical L.L.C., River East L.L.C. and Grand Pier L.L.C. are completing removal actions at the Lindsay Light II site pursuant to a U.S. EPA administrative order issued under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. ("CERCLA" or more commonly known as "Superfund"). To date, approximately 40,000 tons of thorium-impacted soils have been excavated in the Streeterville area and the cleanup work is still ongoing. As you are probably aware, the Grand Pier clean-up is currently underway directly behind 201 and 205 East Grand. Generally, asphalt and concrete effectively shield the gamma radiation from this material, but, if the asphalt and concrete are removed during construction, renovation or maintenance activities there may be a potential threat to human health and the environment.

The enclosed consent for access provides U.S. EPA and its representatives access to your properties to conduct radiation surveillance and sampling. Please sign this consent for access and return it to us within seven calendar days of receiving this letter. After seven calendar days, we will assume that you are denying us access. Note that this consent is for access for a radiation walkover and sampling purposes only. If access is required for other purposes, a broader access agreement will be necessary.

Also, please provide us with a copy of any environmental assessment of the referenced properties, whether or not it includes a radiological assessment. Such data would add to our understanding of the area. We also are interested in copies of any geotechnical boring information you may have relative to this site.

Our requests for access and information are authorized by Section 104(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9604, which provides that U.S. EPA may enter private property for the purposes of "determining the need for response or choosing or taking any response action," including investigatory and cleanup activities. Section 104(e) of CERCLA also provides that U.S. EPA may require any person, who may have information relevant to the identification or nature of hazardous substances or the extent of release of hazardous substances, to furnish such information of documents.

Please contact either myself at (312) 886-3601 or Fred Micke, On-Scene Coordinator at (312) 886-5123, if there is additional information we can provide to you. Please direct legal matters to Cathleen Martwick, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-7166.

Sincerely,

Verneta Simon.
On-Scene Coordinator

Enclosures:

1. Fact Sheet dated April 2000
2. Fact Sheet dated May 2000
3. Fact Sheet dated June 2000
4. Consent for Access Form